

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NDJAME 02150 191819Z

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 USIA-06 /016 W

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R 191030Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 089

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NDJAMENA 2150

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC, CD (BRAHIM, MOUSSA)

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL VISITORS: IMAM OF NDJAMENA AND MINISTER
OF JUSTICE

REF: STATE 184343 #

1. SINCE INVITATION TO IMAM WAS FIRST BROACHED IN 1973, IMAM MOUSSA BRAHIM WAS FORMALLY INVITED TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES BY AMBASSADOR MULCAHY AND DETAILS WERE DISCUSSED WITH HIM BY PREVIOUS PAO AND DCMOM AMBASSADOR LITTLE RENEWED INVITATION AND FURTHER DISCUSSIONS HELD WITH IMAM BY CURRENT PAO AND DCM. SINCE ORIGINAL US INVITATION, IMAM COMPLETED APPARENTLY HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO SOVIET UNION AND SEVERAL ARAB COUNTRIES. PRIOR TO MID-APRIL COUP D'ETAT, IMAM, WHOSE STAND ON TRIBAL INITIATION CEREMONIES (YONDOH) DISPLEASED FORMER PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE, WAS FORBIDDEN LEAVE COUNTRY. FOLLOWING COUP, PAO DISCUSSED INFORMALLY WITH MFA WHETHER SEVERAL POSSIBLE IV NOMIEES WOULD BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE COUNTRY. OF THOSE DISCUSSED, MINISTRY RESPONDED WITH FORMAL APPROVAL FOR THREE ONLY, INCLUDING NGABA MBAIDOU AND MAHAMAT MOUSTAPHA WHO CURRENTLY IN US, AND THE IMAM. IMAM IS NOW IN MIDDLE EAST ACCOMPANYING VICE-PRESIDENT OF SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL ON VISITS TO ARAB STATES, AND HIS INFLUENCE AS SPOKESMAN FOR IMPORTANT ISLAMIC SEGMENT OF CHADIAN POPULATION HAS OBVIOUSLY INCREASED. HE MAY BE EXPECTED HAVE CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE ON MOSQUE/SCHOOL COMPLEX PRESENTLY BEING CONSTRUCTED NDJAMENA WITH SAUDI FUNDS WHICH WILL BE LARGEST IN AFRICA. HE HAS EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN US TO EMBOFFS AND GREAT

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PAGE 02 NDJAME 02150 191819Z

CURIOUSITY ROLE OF ISLAM IN US, NOT ONLY IN WASHINGTON BUT IN

OTHER AREAS OF COUNTRY.

2. PROGRAMMING SHOULD PRESENT NO SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES, USING PERHAPS COMBINED THEME "MINORITY RELIGIOUS LIFE IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY" AND "RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SECULAR STATE," BOTH OF WHICH HAVE OBVIOUS PARALLELS WITH CHAD. IN ADDITION, VISITS US ISLAMIC CENTERS AND INSTITUTIONS, EMBASSY WOULD SUGGEST VISITS TO SMALLER US PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, IN PARTICULAR THOSE WITH BLACK ORIENTATION. LATTER MIGHT WELL HAVE CROSS-CULTURAL BENEFITS AS THERE SHOULD BE INTEREST IN THE SITUATION OF ISLAM IN "BORDER" SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRY RAOSE LEADERSHIP WITH INDEPENDENCE SHIFTED TO SOUTHERN NON-MOSLEM TRIBES. INTERPRETERS REQUIRED, AS CU AWARE, FOR GREAT MAJORITY CHADIAN GRANTEES, AND EMB WOULD HOPE THAT REQUIREMENT THAT LANGUAGE WOULD BE EASTERN ARABIC SHOULD NOT PROVE OVERLY BURDENSOME.

3. IN BRIEF, WHILE EMBASSY DOES NOT INTEND PORTRAY AS CHADIAN BILLY GRAHAM, EMB CONSIDERS THAT IMAM MEETS IV CRITERIA, THAT CAREFUL PROGRAMMING AND SUCCESSFUL VISIT WOULD LEAD INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN EMB AND USIS ON ONE HAND AND MOSLEM COMMUNITY CHAD ON OTHER, AND THAT VISIT WOULD DEMONSTRATE USG INTEREST IN SIZEABLE PORTION CHADIAN POPULATION. FINALLY, AND NOT LEAST, AMBASSADOR AND EMB OFFS BELIEVE THAT WITHDRAWAL INVITATION, HOWEVER TACTFULLY AND DIPLOMATICALLY ACCOMPLISHED, WOULD PROVE MYSTIFYING AND PERHAPS INSULTING TO IMAM AND HIS FOLLOWERS, TO DETRIMENT POLICIES OUTLINED.

4. WITH REGARD TO ALTERNATES DISCUSSED BY PAO SEAL WITH CU, EMBASSY HAD PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED WITH SEAL AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE MADE UPON SEAL'S RETURN TO NDJAMENA. EMBASSY ALREADY REQUESTED SPECIFIC APPROVAL INVITATION TO MINISTER JUSTICE AHMADY, HOWEVER, ON JULY 17 (NDJAMENA 1853) TO WHICH NO REPLY RECEIVED TO DATE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: (1.) CONCURRENCE RE-INVITATION TO IMAM OF NDJAMENA; AND (2) CONCURRENCE INVITATION TO MINISTER JUSTICE IN COORDINATION WORLD PEACE THROUGH LAW CONFERENCE OCTOBER 12-17.

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PAGE 03 NDJAME 02150 191819Z

NOTE BY OC/T: REFTEL NOT IDENTIFIED

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NDJAME02150
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750286-0752
From: NDJAMENA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750840/aaaabiqe.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 184343
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 AUG 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <23 DEC 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNATIONAL VISITORS: IMAM OF NDJAMENA AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE
TAGS: OEXC, CD, (BRAHIM, MOUSSA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006